

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes for

12/16/15

(DRAFT to be approved at the January 20, 2016 meeting)

FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Susan Weber, Jennifer Bird, Annie Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Chris May, Joe Richardson, Kevin Sellner

County Council: Jerry Donald

OSER: Shannon Moore

Public: Mark Long, Tim Goodfellow (FCG), Tyler Quyan, Jerry Muir (Emmitsburg)

Welcome – Introductory Comments

- Jerry Muir, Emmitsburg's Zoning Officer, welcomed all to the Town Offices for the meeting. The Town is proud of its expanded wastewater treatment plant with its solar field (the second one in town). The Mayor was tied up with other duties due to the recent fires in town and could not accompany the Commission on the tour today.
- The Chair (Tom Anderson) welcomed all FCSC attendees and guests. The Water Body Buffer Bill introduced by Jerry Donald was passed by the County Council with a five to two vote and is now in effect. Tim Goodfellow was key to getting the bill passed thanks to the information he provided. The next Commission meeting will be in Winchester Hall on the third floor in January.

Tour of the Emmitsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant with Enhanced Nutrient Removal

The Water and Sewer Superintendent, Dan Fissel, conducted the tour.

Brief business meeting following the tour:

Welcome from Mayor Briggs

The Town is very proud of the wastewater treatment plant. There have been eight or nine new connections so far. The Town is also proud of its plan to connect the town with walkways.

Vice Chair Items

- Approval of the November meeting minutes, moved by Joe Richardson and seconded by Annie Jones, was unanimously approved.
- Action Items: The first Sustainability Plan Committee meeting was held. The committee will work with the County's comprehensive planning process to assist with the sustainability elements. Two intern applications have been received. Susan will check with a third person who has expressed interest. [That person's application has since been received.]

Solid Waste Management Options Study Update

Joe Richardson advised that no one from the Commission has attended any of the forums held thus far. He will email everyone to encourage Commissioners to attend.

Commission Members Items of Interest:

- Tom advised that the Commission is to act on annual citizen and Frederick County employee and organization awards for 2016. He noted that Ginny Brace will be nominated for the citizen award for the Waterford Park in Frederick.
- Ron K. passed out copies of an updated Commission member list.
- Chris M. advised that the energy tax credit extension is now expected to be passed by Congress.
- Kevin S. attended a Maryland Department of the Environment meeting for the Chesapeake (?) watershed.
- Joe R. advised that the Omnibus Appropriations Bill before Congress (and expected to pass) includes federal grants for environmental education programs. This will help organizations like his. There will be a greater emphasis on environmental education for Grades K through 12.

Action Items:

- 10-1. Focus areas for FY 2016: comprehensive planning and energy efficiency. There is now a committee to develop the Sustainability Plan, which will also work with the County's comprehensive planning process. Perhaps another committee to work on energy efficiency issues is also needed? We need to further define this in terms of outcomes as an agenda item to discuss how to move forward for a future meeting. We would need to bring in subject matter experts.
- 10-2. Field trips: Shannon Moore ~~will begin scheduling.~~ **arranged the Emmitsburg field trip.** ~~She is working with Emmitsburg on the December field trip.~~ **Annie J. will draft** ~~drafted~~ a press release on the field trip. **A press release about the Emmitsburg wastewater treatment plant field trip was issued by the County on 12/10/15.** Tim J. will talk to local farmers about adding some farms to the list of field trips. This will include getting meeting places and contacts at those farms. Catocin Mountain Orchard is a possibility, since it has organic farming practices.
- 10-3. Intern: Annie Jones to plan on getting intern from local college starting in spring semester to work for FCSC 4 to 6 hours per week. Shannon to look for space in her offices. Annie ~~will draft~~ **drafted** an advertisement to seek an intern for the spring semester. She ~~will include~~ **included** public outreach, the web site, and social media in the ad. **Annie has posted the ad with a due date of 1/11/16 for applications. [Three applications have been received.]**
- 10-4. Sustainability Plan: ~~SP Committee to develop three options for decision by County Executive.~~ **[The Committee met on 12/18/15. A brainstorming session on mission and vision will be held for the entire Commission at its January meeting.]**
- 10-5. Spot recognition certificates: Members to look for nominees. Ongoing. McCurcheon put solar panels on its roof recently---a possible candidate. **Waterford Park is another possibility.**

- 10-6. Sustainability Event of 10/16/15: ~~Shannon to provide feedback from course review forms for next meeting. **Provided.**~~ Presentations and Roundtable results to be posted on web site (by intern?) **TBD.**
- 10-7. Water body buffer bill: ~~Commission to decide on whether to support, and if so, how. **Not needed.**~~ **The County Council passed the bill on 12/1/15.**
- 10-8. County Green Teams: Need to assemble a comprehensive list that includes all municipalities with teams and contact information shown. FCSC to send a letter inviting liaisons from the teams to attend FCSC meetings. Ron K. has started a list and has been attending City of Frederick Green Team meetings.
- 10-9. FCSC evening meetings: Shannon is looking into feasibility and logistics. Shannon to follow up on the availability of the third floor hearing room in Winchester Hall for night meetings in 2016, starting at 7 pm and looking at other Wednesdays.
- 10-10. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join. We need to come up with an approach to accomplish this.

Adjourn: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the chair thanked all for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.